

Commission Notes



A publication of the Indiana Arts Commission

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The Arts "WOW" them in Evansville

For the next several months, a public-private partnership involving the arts will be "wowing" residents in Evansville.

Downtown Evansville, Old National Bank, the Arts Council of southwestern Indiana, the City of Evansville, and the Public and Private Schools of Vanderburgh County have joined forces to launch "Windows of ArtWork" that will incorporate artwork into many of the office and commercial buildings in downtown Evansville.



Works by local artists will be featured in display windows of downtown businesses such as Old National Bank (above) Photos submitted by Joan David

The year-long project will feature the works of both professional artists and visual arts students from throughout Vanderburgh County.

The goal of the project is to support area artists by not only giving them a public showcase for their work, but giving downtown visitors and business patrons an opportunity to view and, in many cases, purchase locally created artwork.



IAC Commissioner Jack Schriber (r), and Kathy Solecki, executive director of the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, were on hand for the first installment in the WOW series.

IAC joins Governor's call for budget reductions

By now most Hoosiers are well aware of the fiscal challenges facing our state. The economic downturn of 2001 has been challenging for everyone, and its effects will continue to challenge us for the foreseeable future.

Like its sister agencies of state government, the Indiana Arts Commission has accepted the challenge to reduce spending. In mid summer of 2001, as the first hints budget shortfalls were becoming known, the IAC trimmed more than 7% of its FY2002 budget appropriations (\$276,470) through reductions in administrative expenses and grants.

Through the remainder 2001, revenue projections continued to fall below expectations. Governor O'Bannon began formulating a plan to address the budget crisis and a major ingredient in his plan was additional cost reductions by state agencies. This plan included wage and hiring freezes, and requested agencies identify additional budgetary reductions.

In FY2003, all agencies have been asked to make additional one-time reductions in addition to the reversions made for FY2002. Total one-time reversions to meet the budget crisis are estimated at about 8% in addition to the 7% reduction.

The IAC is still evaluating the potential impact on programs and services and cost reduction options.

Dr. Alfred Edyvean dies

Dr. Alfred R. Edyvean, founder of the Edyvean Theatre, passed away January 23 following a lengthy illness.

Dr. Edyvean served as director of the theater for 24 years. Under his leadership, the theater became the first in Indianapolis to offer signed performances for the hearing-impaired.

A memorial service will be held Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. at North United Methodist Church, Indianapolis. Cards and/or memorial gifts should be sent to the theater in lieu of flowers.

Bloomington resident appointed to Commission

Governor Frank O'Bannon recently appointed Sandra Clark, Bloomington, to the Indiana Arts Commission.

Clark is a self-employed consultant specializing in strategic planning, management training and support, and facilitation of training services to businesses, schools, and organizations.

A graduate of Butler University, Indianapolis, Clark holds a Masters Degree in Education from Indiana University. She is a nationally certified counselor and state licensed mental health counselor.

Clark is a member of the board of directors of Buskirk-Chumley Theatre, Inc., and serves on the board of directors of Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, Inc. She repre-

sented Lotus World Music and Arts Festival at the 2001 Indiana Governor's Arts Awards.

In summer of 2000, Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez also called upon Clark to serve on a 12-member Bloomington Area Arts Council Study Committee.

"Sandra Clark brings a strong background in organizational and community development to the Commission," noted Dorothy Ilgen, IAC executive director. "Her experience in strategic planning will be especially helpful as the Commission moves forward on its five-year Strategic Plan. We are pleased Governor O'Bannon selected her to serve the arts of our state."

Clark's four-year term with the Commission will continue through June 2006.

The Arts & Education: helping youth cope with a national tragedy

Educators and parents alike know that early teen years can be an emotional, troubling time for youth. Coping with life's changes can be a day to day struggle. How then does an arts educator address the added emotional stress of a national disaster such as the events of September 11?

For Katherine Bailey, 7th grade art teacher at New Castle Middle School, the answer seemed obvious - let the students use their own art to reflect their thoughts and feelings.

"The idea to use this as a means of expression seemed natural to me," she explained. "I told them that so much art throughout history was created to express a significant event, and here was their chance to record history."

As the students worked, Mrs. Bailey encouraged students to bring in news pictures from the event, and to continue open discussion about the events as they created their paintings.

"What impressed me most was the unique ideas some students had," she said. "And what surprised me most was how many of them didn't really know how to express themselves, or couldn't express how they felt this affected them."

As one might expect from youth this age, many of the paintings dealt explicitly with the actual violence of the day. Others chose a more subtle approach to their creations.

One such example is a painting that at first appears to be a city-scape. Closer inspection reveals the buildings are actually candles and two identical candles are taller than that rest,

but have thick smoke billowing from their flames. At the top of the painting one can just see the lower edge of an eye, and from that eye there is a single tear.



by Alycen Row

"One student painted the American Flag with a part of it torn in the outline of an airplane, but there was a needle and thread in the process of repairing the damage," Mrs. Bailey explained.



by Ben Hamm

The school took one additional step in recognizing this special project by making room in trophy cases normally reserved for sports to display the students' work.

"The faculty has responded to the strong visual images and made particular effort to talk with the students about their work," Mrs. Bailey said, "and more importantly, parents and grandparents have noticed these kids have strong feelings they need to express."



by Eloise Johnson

images submitted by Katherine Bailey and used by permission of New Castle Middle School

A response from the Arts Commission

The Indiana Arts Commission, during its quarterly meeting September 21, 2001, in Bloomington, Indiana resolves that the Commission and staff of the Indiana Arts Commission pay tribute to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Pennsylvania.

The Indiana Arts Commission recognizes the great bravery and heroism of the firemen, policemen and other rescue workers in their tireless efforts to find survivors of this disaster.

Acknowledging that terrorism is an act of destruction, while art is an act of creation, the Indiana Arts Commission further resolves that out of this tragedy it will pledge to rededicate its efforts to promoting art's ability to explain, enlighten, educate, build bridges between diverse communities, commemorate and heal.

The Indiana Arts Commission calls upon the citizens of Indiana, especially artists and arts organizations, to create forums for dialogue and work to foster greater understanding and acceptance of all people and cultures.

Willis S. Clark	Jim Bodenmiller
Ronald J. Stratten	Lee Marks
Jack Schriber	Kathleen Beeler
Joan F. David	William Hopper
Cliff Lambert	Sandra Neale
Louis Ortiz	Leonard Pas
Steven L. Tuchman	India Cruse-Griffin

Changes in IAC staffing

Two IAC staff members announced their departures during December.

IAC Community Development Manager Caryn Castellan recently left the services of the IAC to accept a position with Indiana University in Bloomington.

Jeri Pat Gabbert, deputy director, left to pursue other career interests.

The IAC Commissioners and staff thank Caryn and Jeri Pat for their efforts on behalf of the arts in Indiana.

Hoosier arts advocates to host legislative breakfast

The Indiana Advocates for the Arts (IAA) will host a legislative breakfast February 19 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. EST at the Indianapolis Arts Garden.

The breakfast was originally scheduled for February 7, but was rescheduled due to a change in the legislative calendar.

In addition to breakfast, there will be a brief presentation from 8:15 to 8:30.

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